

REMARKS

Applicant requests consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 32-68 are pending in the application, with claims 32, 38, 43, 48, 55, 58, 62, and 65 being independent. By this amendment, claims 32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 44, and 48-52 have been amended, and claims 55-68 are newly added. Support for the amendments and newly added claims can be found in the application, as filed. No new matter is being added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 48-51 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and solely to advance prosecution, claims 48-51 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 32-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,400,462 to Hille in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,790 to Kageyama. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention as recited in these claims. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 32, 38, 43, 48, 55, 58, 62 and 65 , for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

As now recited in independent claim 32, a printing system features a printer apparatus and an information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes a

display unit, a memory, identification means for identifying the notice sent by notice means, and control means. When the notice is identified as a first type of notice, the control means controls the display unit to perform a display based on information corresponding to the first type of notice, which is stored in the memory in advance, wherein the display is not a forwarding URL. When the notice is identified as a second type of notice, for which corresponding countermeasure information is not stored locally, the control means controls the display unit to display a forwarding first URL and to perform a request display for prompting an operator to instruct whether or not to connect to the first URL to obtain the countermeasure information corresponding to the second type of notice. The information processing apparatus is connected to the internet when the connection to the first URL is instructed, and a display based on the countermeasure information which is obtained via the internet based on the first URL is displayed on the display unit of the information processing apparatus.

In other aspects of Applicant's invention, independent claims 38, 43, and 48 recite, respectively, an information processing apparatus, an information processing method, and a computer readable storage medium storing a computer program for an information processing apparatus, all of which have features that generally relate to the above-described features of the information processing apparatus of claim 32.

According to new independent claim 55, a printing apparatus that receives printing data from a host computer and prints, and that has an abnormal diagnosis function for various portions of the apparatus, features memory means and communication means. The memory means stores information designating problem contents which are identification codes allocated depending on problem types in advance and forwarding address information designating a forwarding address

which is a communication address of an other computer connected to a network to which the host computer is connectable. The communication means sends the information designating problem contents corresponding to a result of the abnormal diagnosis function and the forwarding address information.

In another aspect of Applicant's invention, independent claim 62 recites a control method for a printing apparatus having features that generally relate to the features of the printing apparatus claimed in claim 55.

In a further aspect, new independent claim 58 recites a host computer that performs printing by connecting to a printing apparatus having an abnormal diagnosis function for various portions of the apparatus and by supplying printing data to the printing apparatus, and that reports problem content when information designating problem content is received from the printing apparatus. The printing apparatus includes storage means that stores information designating problem content and forwarding address information designating a forwarding address, and communication means that sends the information designating problem content corresponding to a result of the abnormal diagnosis function and the forwarding address information. The host computer comprises receiving means that receives the information designating the problem content and the forwarding address information from the printing apparatus, and sending means that sends the received information designating the problem content to the forwarding address designated by the received forwarding address information. The information designating the problem content is an identification code allocated depending on problem types in advance, and the forwarding address information is a communication address of the other computer connected to a network to which the host computer is connectable.

In yet a further aspect of the invention, independent claim 65 recites a control method for a host computer having features that generally relate to those features in independent claim 58.

Applicants submit that many of these features are not taught or suggested by the cited patents, whether those documents are taken alone or in combination.

Hille relates to a service tool for servicing printers in which printer errors are detected, their cause is obtained, and fix information is provided. The errors and fix information are stored as HTML files, and the HTML files are updated by downloading newer versions from a web site. However, the HTML file exists locally, and Hille simply displays the problem and the countermeasure information depending on the type of the error.

Kageyama relates to a printing system wherein a printer connected to one computer is managed by another computer over a network, and a user that wants to know a countermeasure for a printer problem issues an inquiry from a local PC to the local printer, which accesses a database maintained by a printer manufacturer.

However, nowhere are Hille and Kageyama understood to teach or suggest that when a notice is identified as a first type of notice, a display is performed based on information corresponding to the first type of notice, which is stored in the memory in advance, wherein the display is not a forwarding URL, and when a notice is identified as a second type of notice for which corresponding countermeasure information is not stored locally, a display unit displays a forwarding first URL. Such features are recited in independent claims 32, 38, 43, and 48.

These patents are also not understood to teach or suggest features of new independent claims 55, 58, 62, and 65. For example, those patents are not understood to teach or suggest at least storing information designating problem contents which are identification codes allocated

depending on problem types in advance and forwarding address information designating a forwarding address which is a communication address of another computer connected to a network to which the host computer is connectable, and sending the information designating a problem content corresponding to a result of an abnormal diagnosis function and the forwarding address information.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending independent claims recite features that patentably define Applicant's invention over the cited patents. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims are requested.

Dependent claims 33-37, 39-42, 44-47, 49-54, 56, 56, 59-61, 63, 6,4 and 66-68 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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